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W.P. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. - Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 20, 1993

Re: Motion to Accept late Filed Comments and Comments of
InterDigital in RM-8159.

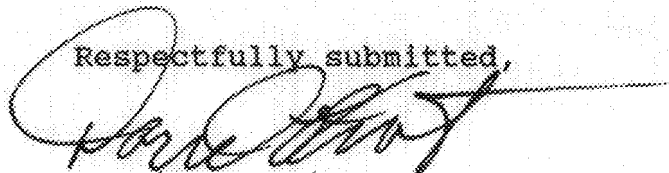
Dear Mr. Caton:

Transmitted herewith are an original and four copies of
of a Motion to Accept Late Filed Comments and Comments of
InterDigital Communications Corp. in RM-8159.

If you have any questions with regard to this matter, please
do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 215/278-7889.

Sincerely,

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Smith
Vice President

InterDigital Communications Corp.
2200 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 105
King of Prussia, PA 19406

August 20, 1993

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 20 1993

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In the Matter of)
)
Petition to Authorize) RM-8159
Co-Primary Sharing of the)
450 MHz Air-Ground)
Radiotelephone Service)
with BETRS)

COMMENTS OF INTERDIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CORP.

I. INTRODUCTION

InterDigital Communications Corporation ("InterDigital")¹ respectfully submits these additional comments in the above captioned proceeding. InterDigital is a wireless technology manufacturer that has developed an advanced spectrum efficient digital radio system which operates under the current BETRS rules to provide wireless loops between telephone central offices and customer premises. As such, InterDigital is concerned that the current proceeding explore not only additional spectrum for BETRS but also effective rules to enable the spectrum to be used efficiently to provide an alternative method of delivering basic telephone service in rural areas.

¹ On October 15, 1992, International Mobile Machines Corp. (IMM) acquired SCS Mobilecom/Telecom, Inc., a world leader in Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology. SCS was one of the early pioneers in testing and proving the merit of Broadband CDMA (B-CDMA) technology in the PCS microcell environment. The merger of the two companies and their technology staffs has resulted in the formation of a new company: InterDigital Communications Corporation.

II DISCUSSION

In the original round of comments most commentators focused on the need for more spectrum for BETRS. However, it would be a hollow victory indeed if spectrum relief was granted and the current rules which apply to BETRS were left unchanged. Accordingly, the following comments are submitted to substantiate the need to establish a new subpart in the Part 22 rules to embody specific rules which apply uniquely to BETRS.

For example, current and proposed rules would limit the availability of channels to BETRS licensees. Proposals, such as the new Section 22.569, to limit channels to two (2) per application should not apply to BETRS. BETRS systems are designed to meet a telephone industry grade of service of P.01. This level of service is often dictated by State Public Service Commissions (PSCs) and certainly by the expectation of customers that use radio to replace wire for the provision of basic telephone service.

This point was made in InterDigital's original comments in this proceeding. "...Proposals by the MSD to limit initial channel availability for mobile licenses would effectively eliminate BETRS as an option for telephone company service."² The proposal in new Section 22.569 perfectly illustrates how a rule which makes sense for a mobile service could adversely effect a fixed service.

² Comments of InterDigital at 6.

Telephone companies could not use BETRS under the proposed channel allocation scheme (Section 22.569) because PSCs would not allow telephone companies to provide an inferior quality of telephone service to rural customers. Most BETRS installations provide telephone service to a small percentage of the telephone exchange's customer base. If BETRS was restricted (by Commission rules) to the grade of service proposed, the result would be different levels of service (wire and radio) within the same telephone exchange.

For these reasons, Commission action to force a mobile grade of service on a fixed telephone service would effectively eliminate BETRS as a viable alternative for telephone company use to provide high-quality local telephone service in rural areas.

In addition to this obvious need to treat BETRS differently from conventional mobile service, there are other attributes of BETRS as a fixed service that should be recognized in a separate subpart of the rules. Antenna polarization, number of transmitters and channel spacing are but a few examples of the unique characteristics of a fixed service which uses fixed high gain antennas.

In fact, InterDigital documented seven specific rule parts in the Part 22 rules which require changes to accommodate the unique aspects of BETRS.³

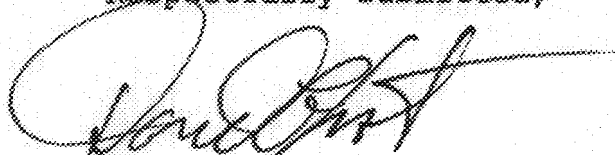
³ Comments of InterDigital at 6-8, in Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 92-115, 7 FCC Rcd. 3658, 3672 (1992), February 4, 1993.

These rule changes could easily be accommodated under a new subpart of the Part 22 rules dealing specifically with BETRS.

II CONCLUSION:

The Commission should separate BETRS from the rules that govern conventional mobile service, and establish a separate subpart of the Part 22 rules. The new subpart should contain specific rules which reflect the unique characteristics of BETRS as a fixed service providing basic telephone service.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David L. Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.


David L. Smith
Vice President

InterDigital Communications Corp.
2200 Renaissance Blvd., Suite 105
King of Prussia, PA 19406

August 20, 1993

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Susan P. Sutton, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Comments of InterDigital Communications Corp. was mailed first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, this 20th day of August, 1993 to the parties listed on the attached service list.


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